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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,598	10/20/2003	Kiyoshi Kawano	P23968	2546

7055 7590 01/10/2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/10/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 01/10/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,598

Applicant(s)

KAWANO ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy J. Henn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. References JP 11-248996 and JP 2001-311868 listed on the IDS received 10 February 2004 were filed with English language abstracts. However, since the English language abstracts were listed as separate references on the IDS, only the English language abstracts will be considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haga et al. (US 2001/0028498) in view of Steinberg et al. (US 5,862,217) in view of Terui et al. (US 5,710,813).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Haga discloses a portable electronic device including a battery chamber for leading at least one battery (Figures 5 and 13; Paragraph 0056).

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However, Haga does not disclose a switch to present a function, and operating member that is used to switch the switch wherein the operating member is located within the battery chamber and is concealed by the battery.

Steinberg discloses a camera which includes an encryption system (i.e. a function) that encrypts images captured by the camera and allows the user to select whether to store the images in an encrypted or unencrypted form (c. 2, l. 65 - c. 3, l. 34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an encryption function as described by Steinberg in the system of Haga to allow for the storage of encrypted or unencrypted images according to user preference. However, Haga in view of Steinberg does not disclose a switch an operating member as claimed.

Terui discloses a portable electronic device with an encryption system which includes a switch and operating member located within a battery chamber and concealed by the battery when the battery is located in the battery chamber (Figure 6). Terui further discloses that placing an encryption selection switch at this position prevents the switch from being easily operated from the outside and increases confidentiality (c. 7, l. 50 - c. 8, l. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place an encryption selection switch within the battery chamber of Haga to allow the use to select between an encryption mode and a non-encryption mode with increased confidentiality and without accidentally switching to an unwanted mode while operation the system.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Haga in view of Steinberg in view of Terui discloses a device further comprising a video signal output processor (e.g. Haga, Figure 4) and a function which is a selection of a standard among a plurality of video signal transmission standards which are referred to by the video signal output processor (e.g. Steinberg; encrypted signal or unencrypted signal; c. 2, l. 65 - c. 3, l. 34).

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, Haga discloses a device which comprises binoculars provided with a digital camera (Figure 3).

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Terui discloses a chamber separated from the battery chamber by a partition, wherein the partition is formed with an opening into which the operating member is fitted (Figure 6).

Conclusion

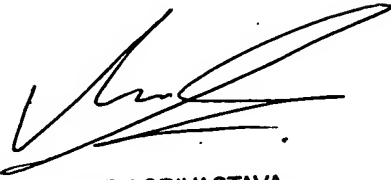
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TJH
1/7/2006



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